

8th February 1924]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ It is a matter of some importance to the House and I would suggest that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will be good enough to call for the information. In agreement with the rules regarding interpellations, I shall ask him whether he would be kind enough to call for the information? ”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister whether he considers that he should interfere with meticulous details like this when the information can easily be obtained by any member of the district board or from the president of the district board concerned? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I am obliged to my hon. Friend again for his answer this morning ”

*Appointments in the Local Self-Government Department.*

310 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he is consulted by and whether he does advise His Excellency the Governor with regard to high appointments in the departments administered by him?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know from the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether his advice is usually taken or is usually rejected; if rejected, I would request him to give an instance? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I am not prepared to answer that question.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Thank you very much.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know if the hon. the Minister's advice was rejected in connexion with the appointment of Major Bradfield in the Medical College? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I decline to answer that question too.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know from the hon. the Minister whether he advised His Excellency in connexion with that appointment although his advice might not have been accepted by the Government and whether his advice or suggestion to the Governor was for the appointment of Colonel Choudhury? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I decline to answer that question.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“ Was the appointment of Major Bradfield made during the term the hon. the Minister first held the portfolio? ”

(No answer.)

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether before he submitted his resignation of the last term, he had recommended another gentleman for the place? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am not prepared to answer that question too.”



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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Will the hon. the Minister be good enough to state the reasons for his declining to answer these pertinent questions?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The answer to this follows from the answer I have given before."

*Travelling allowance drawn by Presidents of certain District Boards.*

311 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowances drawn by the Presidents of the District Boards of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tinnevely, Kistna and Gōdāvari during the months of August, September and October 1923?

A.—The Government have no information.

*The Salem District Board.*

312 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Foulkes was renominated as President of the District Board, Salem, a few days before his departure to England;

(b) whether the Minister was aware of Mr. Foulkes' impending departure when he passed the order nominating him;

(c) whether Mr. Foulkes is expected to be absent from India for more than six months; and

(d) whether the Vice-President of the District Board, Salem, has arranged to hold meetings of the Board once in two months, instead of once in a month?

A.—(a) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 1 of Schedule II to the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as amended by notification No. 657 published in Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th September 1922.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know the reasons why, when the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government knew that Mr. Foulkes was going out of India, he appointed him as President of the Salem District Board without ascertaining from him as to how long he will be absent from India, especially when he was the head of an executive office?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The answer, as stated, is in the negative. That shows that I did not know."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The hon. the Minister does not seem to follow my question. May I suggest that he studies the questions and answers a little more carefully?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"On a point of order, Sir, it is not open to the hon. Member to ask the hon. the Minister as to why he did not do this or do that. I think there must be a certain amount of discipline in the House and hon. Members should observe the decorum that is necessary for the dignity of the House."